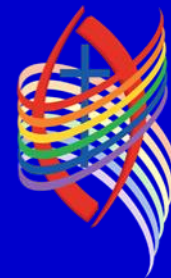




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

Reaching Out

a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.



JUNE 21ST - INDIGENOUS SUNDAY

Today's Scripture Matthew 5: 21-24

Concerning Anger

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you

insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

In Honour of This Indigenous Sunday

Today's prayers are adapted from work by Murray Pruden, a leader of the Indigenous United Church. **Let us pray:**

God our Creator, we give thanks that you have given and provided for us this beautiful land.

We look to the east and give thanks for the direction where the sun rises each day.

We look to the south, give thanks, and respond to the land and waters that are our Mother Earth.

We look to the west and give thanks for the winds and the air that help move our seasons and celebrate the time we are in now—the season of summer.

We look to the north and give thanks for the great wisdom of all that you give us. We appreciate the wisdom of our peoples, the elders, and the many ancestors and loved ones who came and left be-

fore us, and whom are with us still.

Hear us, loving God, as we pray. We pray for our Nations living together here on Turtle Island, within this country we call Canada, and the numerous territories of the Indigenous peoples of this great land. We pray for children and youth to grow strong and be mindful of your teachings and the wonderful land you have provided for all creations to live together as one.

Jesus taught us about the path of love. Let your blessed love embrace all those, including us here today, that need and require a source of comfort and joy. And may we all journey along a humble path in the many ways we do—for the sake of unity and understanding, the acceptance of our differences, and kindness. With your gentle breeze, give us hope. We pray for this in Jesus' name and for the ways of peace and grace.

Amen.

Reminder about the upcoming St. Andrew's Congregational Meeting

WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020 **WHERE:** Join by ZOOM connection or by telephone **TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

FULL DETAILS (with connection information) will be sent out to all addresses currently on this "Reaching Out" newsletter mailing list, by regular mail and posted on the St. Andrew's website.

A Reflection for Sunday, June 21, 2020



*Carolyn Wilson Wynne
Is a Diaconal Minister within
the United Church of
Canada. Read more about
Carolyn [here](#).*

In his 2012 book *The
Inconvenient Indian: A
Curious Account of Native*

People in North America, Indigenous author Thomas King points out that relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples have not changed much over the centuries. "Guns and bugles" may be a thing of the past, but 21st century North America continues to hold onto its feelings of disdain and superiority.

That may not be what you want to hear on this day when we honour the Indigenous peoples with whom we share this country. However, in light of the racism encountered in response to the rail barricades erected in support of the Wet'suwet'en traditional leaders (the hereditary chiefs), the reality King describes is more accurate than is comfortable. Social media was rife with racist comments; there seemed little willingness on the part of settler folks to consider that possibly this was more than a single issue. *(Note: At the time this service was written, the government and the Wet'suwet'en chiefs had*

agreed to a process to discuss the issue of title. Construction of the pipeline continues. If more details are available by June 21, 2020, consider sharing about them briefly here.)

Many non-Indigenous/settler people have wrestled with the legacy of 500 years of racist policies; let us pray that this agreement enables changes that uphold just and fair relations. We must hold out hope because the inertia that accompanies our current state of relationship needs to shift dramatically.

June 2020 is the fifth anniversary of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's \(TRC's\) release of its 94 Calls to Action](#). How many of our United Church people have read all 94 Calls, or even just those that are directed particularly at churches? What is the likelihood that there are good people in our pews who don't remember there was a Truth and Reconciliation Commission? And that it wasn't the altruism of federal government that birthed the TRC, but rather a condition of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement?

Prior to the release of its report, from 2008–2014 the TRC crisscrossed this country listening to the survivors of Residential Schools speak their truth of abuses—physical, emotional, spiritual. Survivors shared the horrors that traumatized and continue to traumatize. Settler folk were shocked by the accounts of sexual and physical abuse, dietary restrictions, electric chairs, and sensory deprivation. Truth is,

continued page 3...

ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - A Couple of Options

This Sunday's service (**Sunday - June 21, 2020**) will be found on the **Trinity United YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit the channel, click on this link: [Trinity United Church YouTube Channel](#). The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production by the Trinity United crew, with regular input from St. Andrew's and other united churches in the area.

Click [**HERE**](#) for a list of links to over 390 United Churches across Canada that are offering online worship services ... either streamed or recorded.



Que(e)rying Religion

I personally would like to invite all Communities of Faith, whether or not they are Affirming, to listen to Rev. Jeff Rock as he leads us into a conversation about wholeness and inclusion.

June is Pride month in which we celebrate the LGBTQ2S in our Communities of Faith and outside our church. We also need to recognize how much work still needs to be done. Healing begins with conversation and it allows us to come together, celebrate our differences and create something new.

Que(e)rying Religion is being offered by MILC (Manitou Intentional Learning Community) online via Zoom with speaker Rev. Jeff Rock. It is happening on **Monday, June 22nd, 2020 6: 30 p.m.** via Zoom. Registration is required by contacting Gillian Schell at: gillian.schell@sympatico.ca



Peter Haddow,
Chairperson, Canadian Shield Regional Council Affirming Resource Team

the survivors had been telling these stories for generations; we didn't listen until they were broadcast into our living rooms.

The report that concluded the work of the TRC is a document Canadians should have a look at, if not a complete read. And the Calls to Action should be required reading! The United Church of Canada is one of the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and 14 of the 94 Calls relate to that relationship—numbers 29, 46, 48, 49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 73, 74, 75, 76, 81, 82.

(Notes: For more information, visit the [United Church's TRC webpage](#) and read "United Church Response to the TRC Calls to Action" available under Downloads at the bottom of the page.

The full text of all 94 Calls is available for download as a [pdf on the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's website](#).

You may also wish to visit [Beyond 94](#), an interactive feature from CBC News to learn about some of the ways how the TRC Calls to Action are being lived out through events and educational opportunities.)

On this National Indigenous Day of Prayer, let's focus on Call 46:

We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential

Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a Covenant of Reconciliation that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, and that would include, but not be limited to:

- i. Reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to reconciliation.*
- ii. Repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and the reformation of laws, governance structures, and policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts.*
- iii. Full adoption and implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) as the framework for reconciliation.*
- iv. Support for the renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.*
- v. Enabling those excluded from the Settlement Agreement to sign onto the Covenant of*

continued page 4...

Reconciliation.

vi. Enabling additional parties to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.

It is a concern that the word reconciliation has become a bit of a buzzword in our culture. As people of faith we need to recognize this is a Biblical principle and a tenet of our faith tradition found in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:23-24 states: "When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift." Reconciliation is key to relationships that are mutual and respectful, in which all parties in the relationship are valued. Only then, according to Jesus, can we offer our best at the altar. Only then does our gift have integrity! When we recognize there's conflict, it's our responsibility to seek restoration of the relationship. The key, of course, is that wounds need to heal and that requires time and patience—on all sides in the conflict! Seeking reconciliation manifests the kingdom/kingdom/realm/dominion/commonwealth of our God!

Call to Action 46 relies upon the Settlement Agreement parties (of which our church is one) to be vigilant about reconciliation and to understand the possible impact on relationships between communities of faith and Indigenous communities as we live into a reconciled relationship. Our church has been earnest and sincere in the years since the TRC Report was presented. Even though the United Church operated residential schools, many in our congregations continue to be unaware of that truth. Education has been and continues to be paramount in our journey to reconciliation. Indigenous people were forever changed by their experiences **in our care**. The generations following continue to deal with the legacy—the trauma is multi-generational. Non-Indigenous/settler people must grapple with Christianity's role

in the genocide many continue to deny.

Do you know about the [Justice and Reconciliation Fund](#)? It was established in 2000 by the Residential Schools Steering Committee of the United Church and assists the church in understanding and responding to the legacy of harm and broken relationships that have resulted from the Indian Residential Schools System. The fund supports projects by United Church groups and partners that foster education, dialogue, reconciliation, and relationship-building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Monies are available to communities of faith who meet the goals of the fund. The good news is that the number of applications has increased in the last couple of years so there are people in our midst aware of the Calls to Action and willing to make the effort to seek reconciliation. It is our hope and prayer that all parties to the Indian Residential Schools Agreement will soon develop and enter into the Covenant of Reconciliation described in Call 46. This will be good news for all of us!

It is our communal prayer that soon, very soon, every community of faith will gain an understanding about the historical racism that birthed the Residential School System and the *Indian Act*. It continues to be our prayer that reluctance to see the latest attempts by Indigenous people and allies to influence the dominant culture's ignorance to the lack of just relationships will be diminished.

With every fibre of his being, our beloved Jesus lived and modelled relationships grounded in mutuality. The Kingdom/kingdom/realm/dominion/commonwealth he and our Loving God wish each of us to live in is here and coming! Let all of us work toward that reality for our siblings. And then, perhaps authors like Thomas King can soon write about how the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people has become one that upholds all of us!

Amen.

**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**

399 CASSELLS STREET, NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1B 3Z4

TELEPHONE (705) 472-7680

e-mail: standrewschurch@cogeco.net

website: standrews-northbay.ca



June 14, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

These are most difficult and trying times in which we are living. We hope this letter finds you well.

In the June 5th edition of the "Reaching Out" newsletter, we published the minutes from our Council meeting held on April 7, 2020. In that meeting, a motion was made and passed relating to a matter between Julia Morton and St Andrew's Council. By including the details in the formal minutes, we have caused embarrassment and hurt. Please know that this was not our intention and for having done so, we are sincerely sorry.

This is an area of church governance that we need to better understand and apply in the future. This is something we commit to doing in the near future. We offer the people of St Andrews the assurance that this governing body will work to be better.

Respectfully

Pat Kirton Bailey,
Chairperson

The McIntyre Street Door

Please note that on Friday June 19, the lock to the McIntyre door was changed. We are trying very hard to keep everyone safe. We know that committees are eager to be back and meeting but we are encouraging you to still use online methods to meet.

If you do require space, we have one room available and we ask that you book with our Office Administrator, Star McGregor, well before the space is needed. Keys can be signed out for the space and returned the next day. We are not renting space yet and so the room is only for committees that need and only up to 8 people please.

Keeping the building sanitized requires that we take this action. Thank you for your understanding.



SUN SCREEN DONATIONS APPRECIATED!



The *Loaves and Fishes Food Bank* is looking for donations of **sun screen** for both children and adults for the sunny summer months. Contact **Peter Haddow** or **Star McGregor** at the Church Office if you can help fill this important summertime need. (see Church Office hours below)



You can ensure that St. Andrew's and those who are helped through its work can count on your support by giving monthly through **Pre-Authorized Remittance**

(**PAR**). Through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account, PAR allows you to give to what matters to you most

What are the benefits of PAR?

Sometimes life's agenda takes over our best-laid plans. With PAR, you don't have to worry about writing a cheque or forgetting to donate because life has thrown you a curveball. By signing up for PAR, you make a clear statement of what is important to you.

It's really easy! To sign up for PAR, download the application for [here](#) and either send it by mail or take it to the Church Office. If you are already on PAR and wish to change the monthly amount, just contact Star at the Church Office (705-472-7680).

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are now
10 am until 1 pm - MON to FRI**



Special thanks to Kim Delarosbel and Treanor Greer-Delarosbel for all their hard work in getting the St. Andrew's gardens ready for summer!

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinky: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



Kid's Corner

This week's activity encourages young folk to use each of the five fingers as a reminder of the people in our lives (and around the world) who are in need of our prayers.

Click on the image to the left to view/download.

WHAT IS THE NORTH BAY AND AREA MISSION CLUSTER ?

All North Bay presbytery committees were disbanded when the United Church changed its structures. However the Mission Committee of the North Bay Presbytery chose not to give up on its mandate of joining congregations and pastoral charges together to do the wider work of mission - and the former Mission Committee morphed into the **Mission Cluster**.

The *Mission Cluster* is more informal than the presbytery.

There is not always a member from each pastoral charge, but there is contact person in each pastoral charge to relay what is happening in mission.

The three major foci are outlined on the first newssheet (below). Meetings are held monthly, and the **Mission Matters !!** newssheet will be circulated on a semi-regular basis.

The two *Mission Cluster* contact persons for St. Andrew's are Judi Brewer and Jim Sinclair.

Kay Heuer



Mission Matters !!

*A newssheet connecting the North Bay & Area Mission Cluster
with United Church people of faith
Issue #2- June 2020*

GREETINGS ... from the North Bay & Area UCC Mission Cluster! This is our second **MISSION MATTERS**. In the first issue, Donna Sinclair responded to the question: Why should the United Church be in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en First Nation? In this issue, Teresa Jones reflects on how our UC New Creed directs us to join the Wet'suwet'en people in caring for the Creation.
- Kay Heuer, Cluster Chair

"TO LIVE WITH RESPECT IN CREATION..."

In 1995, as a result of growing environmental consciousness within The United Church, this phrase was inserted in our NEW CREED. Amidst struggles over resource extraction and pipeline construction such as on Wet'suwet'en land, this confessional phrase, 25 years later, commits us, just as much as ever, to the care of God's Creation.

First, some background. The Wet'suwet'en have lived on their unceded traditional lands for 10,000 years. In 1997, the Canadian Supreme Court recognized in the Delgamuukw decision that Aboriginal title had'nt been extinguished because they had never entered into a treaty. But another step was needed to legally recognize Wet'suwet'en title. After the protests last winter, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, and the BC and Federal Governments, signed a memorandum of understanding, setting out a path toward this legal recognition.

What galvanized the Wet'suwet'en in their quest for the legal recognition of their rights and title, is the appropriation of their land as a corridor for fracked gas by the Coastal Gas Link (CGL) pipeline. This is why the Wet'suwet'en tried to evict CGL from their land last winter, and allies across the country, blocked railways to support them when the RCMP arrested those defending their land. The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, on behalf of their House Clans, have consistently opposed any pipeline from crossing their territory.

So what is the objection to fracked gas? Everyone wanting to "live with respect in Creation," should

know! Hydraulic fracturing, known as "fracking," is a process used to extract natural gas or oil from the earth. Fracking uses millions of litres of water, thousands of litres of undisclosed chemicals, and thousands of kilograms of sand to blast apart rock formations to capture natural gas or oil trapped in shale formations or coal beds. Despite natural gas being promoted as a "clean, green fuel," studies show natural gas wells leak methane that can produce as many greenhouse gas emissions, or more, than coal.

The Wet'suwet'en are well aware of the escalation of industrial development that happens after it enters First Nation land. The fracked land of their neighbours—the Blueberry River First Nation in NE BC, has become littered with gas wells, industry roads, tailings ponds and pipelines. It is gas from these wells that will pass through the CGL pipelines about to be laid in Wet'suwet'en territory.

In their 2014 Report to the BC Environment Assessment Office and CGL, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en detail the impact the construction of the pipeline will have on their land and waters, their livelihood and culture, that they understand as all being interconnected. They are worried about the salmon and their habitat. They fear for the safety of their women and girls who will be made vulnerable by the workers from the "man camps" now being built on their traditional lands. They are concerned about the health and well-being of future generations of Wet'suwet'en.

So 25 years on, what does it mean "to live with respect in Creation"? What I'm learning from the Wet'suwet'en is that it's about the past, present and future: cherishing the land—the Creator's greatest gift, and fighting for it now with all of one's heart and soul, to ensure that future generations will be able to simply live. ✦ - Teresa Jones, North Bay
For more information, go to:
<https://unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/>
http://www.wetsuweten.com/files/Wetsuweten_Title_and_Rights_report_to_EAO_for_Coastal_GasLink_Application.pdf



June 17, 2020

St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge
399 Cassells St
North Bay
ON P1B 3Z4

You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12:31 (NRSV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for all you do to live out Jesus' call to love one another through your gifts to Mission & Service. God's compassionate presence is made real by the beautiful things that are happening because of your generosity.

We are grateful to the people of St. Andrew's Pastoral Charge who have provided \$18,117 in 2019 to enable life-saving and life-changing work through our shared Mission & Service.

Mission & Service takes on a new importance as the church responds to the worldwide COVID-19 crisis. Our ministries in Canada and across the world are acting quickly to help people whose lives have suddenly changed. In-person outreach programs closed by social distancing have been replaced by food distribution and finding safe homes for people who are homeless. Hospital chaplains are caring for COVID-19 victims and their families. People are being helped to adapt to pandemic conditions and taught how to keep the virus from spreading. Virtual camps and education programs are being offered to support families in isolation at home.

Your gifts to Mission & Service make all this possible. You are truly an example of what it means to love one another! Please continue to be a part of our amazing ministry.

Blessings,

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator, The United Church of Canada
Sarah Charters, Acting Director of Philanthropy

P.s. God is still listening, and so are we. If you've sent in your Mission & Service givings for this year, we are grateful. [These stories](#) show how your support is making a real difference in this time of COVID-19. We're here for you if you need help with anything about Mission & Service—just send us an [email](#).

